

Demolition day
countdown is
on

Page 2



More ring
road traffic
misery

Page 6



**What's on in
OXFORDSHIRE**

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Thursday, July 24 - Wednesday, July 30, 2014

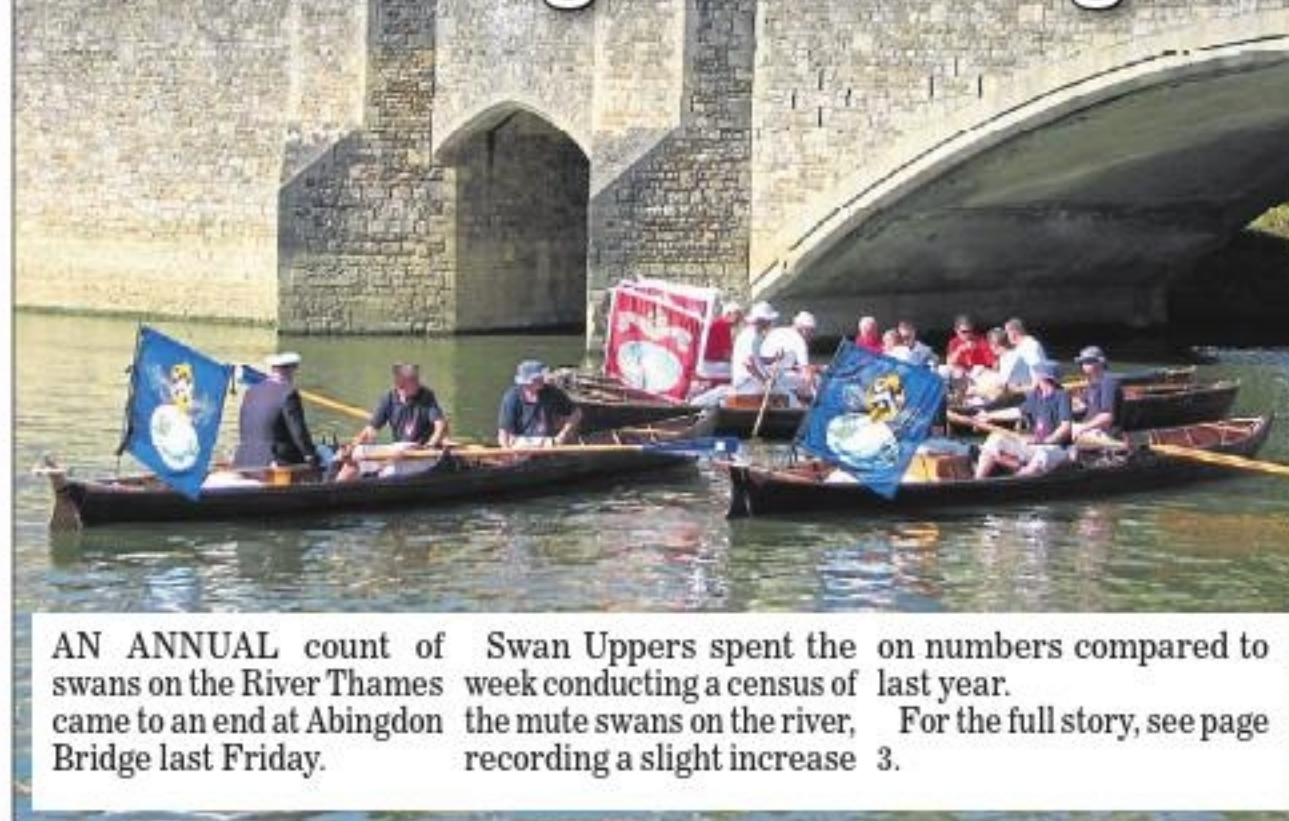
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'TOO SCARED TO GO TO BED'

Peachcroft couple furious after 'mental patient' ordeal

Swan Uppers finish count and raise a glass in Abingdon



AN ANNUAL count of swans on the River Thames came to an end at Abingdon Bridge last Friday. Swan Uppers spent the week conducting a census of the mute swans on the river, recording a slight increase on numbers compared to last year. For the full story, see page 3.

AN ABINGDON couple in their 70s have been left traumatised after a man 'tried to force his way into their home' when he was dropped off by an Oxfordshire County Council-operated minibus at the wrong address.

George and Joanne Hutton, of Boreford Road, described the incident as "scary and stressful" when it happened at around 4.45pm last Friday.

The minibus dropped the man off at their Peachcroft home, who the couple described as a 'mental patient', before saying he tried to force his way in.

George, 72, answered the door and said he had to put his arm across the entrance to stop the man getting in, upon which the minibus driver got out of the vehicle to say they had the wrong house.

Joanne, 71, who had recently suffered a stroke and has a heart condition, said she has been "too scared to go to bed since".

She added: "My husband hates the place now and I'm scared as hell. We don't know what to do. 'We were left thinking if this is

By Adam Flinn

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happening for real or is it some kind of setup.

"I'm thinking it was some conspiracy to push me over the edge when I'm getting my head straight. It feels like the world is crashing around me."

George, a retired builder, said it was lucky he answered the door instead of his wife.

He said: "My wife has to use a frame to get to the door, and if she had opened it she'd have had a heart attack."

"The man was six feet tall towering above me and didn't know his name. I can't believe what's happened, they didn't even have any paperwork."

"The stress is pulling my wife to bits."

But the county council has questioned Mr and Mrs Hutton's version of events, saying that no-one tried to force entry into the couple's home.

A statement from Oxfordshire County Council said: "At no time

did the passenger or driver try to enter Mr and Mrs Hutton's address in Boreford Road.

"The passenger was accompanied to the door by the driver and upon realising that it was the incorrect address when the door was opened by Mr Hutton, the driver and passenger then returned to the vehicle."

The statement added: "The county council again apologises to Mr and Mrs Hutton for mistakenly taking a passenger to an incorrect address."

"The matter is in the process of being thoroughly investigated by the council."



• Joanne and George Hutton have been left "feeling scared" after their ordeal



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Demolition day countdown is on

DIDCOT'S southern cooling towers will be demolished in just three days time but members of the public are being told not to attend the blow down.

The three towers will be demolished between 3am and 5am on Sunday after being a part of the Oxfordshire landscape for 42 years.

Despite pressure from members of the public and Didcot MP Ed Vaizey, energy company npower and demolition firm Coleman & Company have refused to delay the event until 6am.

And now they are warning members of the public not to attend the demolition and

By Jack Johnson

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instead watch a live stream of proceedings - citing safety reasons over the use of 180kg of separate explosive charges.

"We are acutely aware this first part of this demolition is an issue which local people feel strongly about, however safety has to come first," the companies said in a statement.

"Explosive demolition can be dangerous if not managed in a professional and coordinated manner.

"It is with this in mind that

we would advise people not to attend the demolition.

"We are not just seeking to reduce risk in the immediate vicinity of the site but also further afield where large crowds may gather to watch the demolition.

"We will be recording the event using a number of different filming methods, and we will ensure that this footage will be made publicly available."

Npower announced the timing of the demolition last month, prompting 3,059 people to sign a petition, set up by Didcot resident Christine Reardon, to delay the process until 6am.

Mr Vaizey also wrote in his column in last week's Oxfordshire Guardian that after discussions over safety he could not "see the difference between a blow down at 6am and between 3am and 5am".

Npower said the timing of the demolition was agreed with the Health and Safety Executive, Network Rail, Highways Agency, Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Valley Police.

As well as the safety of the public, the nearby railway line and A34 were among the main concerns.

At present, no public event has been organised for the demolition of the towers, something Didcot Town Council said it would have supported had the opportunity arisen.

Town clerk Dominic Stapleton said: "Like most other people we had no idea of the proposed date until recently so there has been no opportunity to organise an event safely, responsibly and effectively.

"RWE npower clearly don't want to be involved in such an event and without their co-operation it is not possible."

Developers Taylor Wimpey planned to make an area available at Great Western Park for members of the public to watch the demolition.

However, on Tuesday the plans were withdrawn due to the risk of dust being blown onto the estate.

A 300m exclusion zone will be in place around the towers during the demolition while Purchas Road and Milton Road will be temporarily closed.

No residential properties are included in the exclusion zone while police will be present throughout.

Free parking will be available at Didcot Parkway for anyone wishing to watch the demolition.

For coverage of the demolition, including a live stream, go to oxfordshireguardian.co.uk



• Didcot Power Station's southern cooling towers, pictured producing their last megawatts of power in March 2013, will be demolished on Sunday (Picture by Jack Johnson)

News Bites

Charity golf

MILTON COMMON: A charity golf day held at The Oxfordshire course has raised more than £24,000 for Hearing Dogs For Deaf People.

The day, which took place on July 11, saw dozens of players take to the golfing greens near Thame, including BBC Breakfast presenter Naga Munchetty.

The money was raised for the national charity based near York.

The Oxfordshire's club captain Rob Daniels said: "I know the funds raised will be put to good use by the charity, and I'd like to thank everyone involved for making this day so successful."

Swimming safe

OXFORD: A video about swimming safely in open water produced by Film Oxford's Digital Youth Collective will get its premiere at Hinksey Park on Saturday.

'River Safe' has been created to highlight the dangers of open water swimming to young people, and features interviews with representatives from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and the county council.

As well as Hinksey Park, the film is also being shown at Sunnymead Park on August 2 and at Fettiplace Recreational Ground on August 16.

Each event starts at 9pm, and the film is being screened alongside a feature-length movie.

Get active offer

CHERWELL: Discounted swim and gym sessions for young people aged 18 to 25 are being offered at three Cherwell leisure centres from Monday.

Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre, Bicester Leisure Centre and Spiceball Leisure Centre in Banbury will be holding £2 sessions until September 22.

Those who attend six sessions over the eight weeks will get one month's free membership, followed by a reduced rate for a 12-month membership.

George Reynolds, Cherwell's deputy leader, said: "Often the most difficult step is getting people through the door for the first time."

Jury consider murder verdicts

THE jury in the Jayden Parkinson murder trial will continue deliberating verdicts today after being sent home on Tuesday.

The six men and six women have been deliberating since last Wednesday after a 19-day trial.

Ben Blakeley, 22, of Christchurch Road, Reading, has admitted killing the Didcot teenager but denies murder.

His younger brother Jake Blakeley, of Venners Water, Didcot, pleaded guilty to perverting the cause of justice but not guilty to preventing a lawful burial.

Oxford Crown Court heard Ben Blakeley killed Jayden in a field near Upton on

December 3 after grabbing her around the neck.

Jayden's body was buried in the field on December 5 before being re-buried in the grave of Ben's uncle Alan Kennedy four days later.

Both defendants remain in custody.

The trial continues.



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Councillors agree to new settlement consultation

A MOTION to start a public consultation on the possibility of building a new settlement in the Vale of White Horse – potentially on land close to Abingdon – was agreed by councillors last week.

The motion, proposed by Drayton councillor Richard Webber, requested that a feasibility study and consultation was launched as a possible solution to the long-term need for housing in the area.

It was discussed by councillors at a meeting held at The Beacon in Wantage last Wednesday.

By Adam Flinn

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A total of 20,560 homes need to be built in the Vale by 2031 to meet targets set out in the district council's Local Plan.

Numerous developments have been proposed across the district, but Cllr Webber believes a longer-term answer is needed.

And one site that has been raised in the past for a new settlement is land west of Drayton, which has also been suggested for a reservoir and even an

international airport over the past year.

Cllr Webber said: "We need to get cracking on consulting on it now, because every year we postpone the issue is a year further away from being able to deliver anything at all."

"The reservoir site has been talked about again, and the fact it's not A-grade agricultural land, Green Belt or an area of outstanding natural beauty means it keeps coming up."

"It may not be the right place for it because it's quite close to Abingdon, but on the other hand

it is quite close to where a lot of employment is due to be."

Cllr Webber added that he hoped a consultation would be launched by the end of the year.

Also at the same meeting, a motion proposed by Abingdon Abbey and Barton councillor Julie Mayhew-Archer concerning pay-on-exit parking across the Vale was turned down.

This was because council leader Matthew Barber said that the idea was already being considered.

Cllr Mayhew-Archer believes a

pay-on-exit system would work better as it doesn't penalise people for running late past the two hours free parking, as they can pay the extra on their return.

She said: "The good news is it's being looked at, but I would like to see it really looked at with a view to doing something."

"The thing I think could have some mileage is numberplate recognition, because it solves all the problems."

"To get a potentially £80 fine for being 10 minutes late for something offered free of charge is excessive in my view."

Swan Uppers toast the end of census in Abingdon

DOZENS of people watched the annual tradition of Swan Upping come to its conclusion in Abingdon on Friday.

The Royal Swan Uppers had made their way from the Surrey town of Sunbury-on-Thames to Abingdon during the week, counting the number of swans along the way.

This year's ceremony saw a slight increase in the number of swans on the Thames compared to last year's figures.

Royal Swan Marker David Barber said: "It started off quiet, we were down on cygnets, but as the week progressed it got back to where it was last year."

"We lost a lot of cygnets through

the early season floods, because when they hatched many of them got washed over weirs."

"But all in all it was a pretty good year, and we had many schools come to visit us to learn a little bit about what we do," he added.

Swan Upping dates back to the 12th century, after the crown

claimed the right to ownership of all unmarked mute swans in open water, which it exercises on the Thames.

It ends in Abingdon after it was decided a fixed finishing point was needed on the Thames, so data on the swans' welfare could be better compared year on year.



• Swan Uppers toast the end of the week-long ceremony after finishing at Abingdon Bridge (Picture by Adam Flinn)

Do you have an Abingdon story?

Contact the newsdesk at

news@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

or on 01235 516933

News Bites

WW1 tribute

ABINGDON: The names of Abingdonians who fought in the First World War will be read out in a ceremony at St Helen's Church on August 4.

The Lights Out commemoration will start at 7.30pm with members of the community reading out the names from the roll of service, before moving to the War Memorial in The Square.

Abingdon Town Band will play music and a commemoration service will be held, concluding with the Last Post at 11pm.

For more information, contact Abingdon Town Council on 01235 522642.

Bureau review

ABINGDON: Councillors are due to discuss the performance of the South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau in Abingdon at a meeting tonight.

Vale of White Horse District Council's scrutiny committee will evaluate the targets and achievements of the bureau, based in Abbey House.

The committee is due to meet in the Locking Room at The Beacon in Wantage from 7pm.

Music and beer

WOOTTON: Craft stalls, live music and a wide selection of beers and ciders will be on offer at Wads-Stock, being held at the Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre on Saturday.

Money raised from the annual event will go to the community centre and to Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance.

It starts at 1pm, and goes on in the centre until 11pm.

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Community centre at heart of fiery dispute

ABOUT 50 protesters gathered outside East Oxford Community Centre on Monday in a bid to stop Oxford City Council from taking it over.

East Oxford Community Association, which operates the Cowley Road centre, was given four weeks notice last month to leave the council-owned premises.

They had until 4pm on Monday to go but the council were unable to evict them.

Catherine Gundry, association trustee, said: "The council turned up on Monday afternoon trying to threaten the committee if we didn't think again, and we'd be taken to court."

"Really the boots on the other foot and we should be taking them to court for harassment and distress, but we'll continue to seek advice and let people know what's happening."

But the council said the asso-

By Adam Flinn

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ciation "is not fit to run" the centre.

Oxford City Council spokesman Louisa Dean said: "The council has sought to remove East Oxford Community Association from the centre as it has determined the association is not fit to run such a property."

"They are now left with two options: to resist the council's actions and we will have to consider formal proceedings, or to agree to the council's proposals."

The council's Communities and Neighbourhoods team would take over management. The centre's programme of events is to continue.

A petition called "leave East Oxford Community Centre alone" has gained more than 500 signatures.

Former East Oxford resident Gill Breeze said: "After all the work that's gone into the place, the association should be given support to carry on the great work in this centre."

• East Oxford Community Centre



Bobbies on the beat commended in report

OXFORDSHIRE'S police force has been praised in a new report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

HMIC's Valuing the Police report, released on Tuesday, states the force is on track to achieve its target savings of £58.9million for the 2011/12 to 2014/15 period.

It also recognised Thames Valley Police's ability to make the savings while making a much smaller reduction in officer and staff numbers than other forces.

It added they have been able to increase the numbers of frontline officers.

Chief constable Sara Thornton said: "We are pleased the report recognises Thames Valley Police's dedication to providing a high quality policing service to the commu-

nities we serve. "However we need to reduce our budgets by a further £38m over the next three years."

"This will be really tough but we will do everything we can to ensure that the service to the public is protected."

Police and crime commissioner Anthony Stansfeld added: "This is an encouraging and useful report from HMIC."

"Thames Valley Police has managed the considerable financial cuts well through greater efficiency, collaboration with other forces and through better use of technology."

• Anthony Stansfeld (top left) and Sara Thornton (bottom left)



News Bites

Election change

OXFORD: Members of the public will receive letters from the city council over the next fortnight about changes to electoral registration.

Oxford City Council is changing the registration process to Individual Electoral Registration.

This means every individual in a household who is eligible to vote will now be responsible for their own voter registration.

Previously, one form was used to register everyone at an address.

Student F1

OXFORD: Students from Oxford Brookes University have finished as the top British team in an international motor racing competition.

Formula Student sees teams from across the world design and build their own racing car, before taking to the track in a series of competitions.

Brookes finished sixth overall at Silverstone last Wednesday, with the event being won by Delft University of Technology of the Netherlands.

Formula Student is Europe's most established educational motorsport competition run by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Josh Flory feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps.

Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Oxfordshire from their local depots and Josh is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truths that it's not just the personal

satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much

a little bit of effort is appreciated." So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Josh a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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News Bites

Silver stolen

WATLINGTON: An antique clock, laptop and the family silver were stolen in a burglary at a Brook Street house between July 10 and 11.

The house was empty at the time, and when the residents returned, they found a rear window had been forced open and the items stolen.

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101.

Scam warning

OXON: Residents are being warned about a cold calling scam where fraudsters offer a council tax rebate in exchange for bank details.

George Reynolds, deputy leader of Cherwell District Council, said: "We would urge anyone who receives a cold call from someone claiming to be from the council and asking for bank details to hang up."

Fellows chosen

OXFORD: Nine of the 42 new fellows of the British Academy who have been selected are from Oxford University - more than any other institution.

Professors Francesco Billari, Susanne Bobzien, Georgina Born, Gavin Flood, Henrietta Harrison, Stephen Smith Cecilia Trifogli, and Sarah Whatmore, along with Dr Susan Brigden, were chosen in recognition of their research in the humanities and social sciences.

Redevelopment plan for Oxford criticised

PLANS to redevelop land in north Oxford have been criticised by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

Oxford City Council wants to develop 90,000m² of land at the Northern Gateway between Wolvercote Roundabout and the Peartree Interchange - 35,000m² more than originally planned in its Core Strategy.

The Oxfordshire CPRE branch said it is "fearful" of the visual impact on the city's Green Belt.

CPRE Oxfordshire director Helen Marshall said: "We are now fearful the expanded scheme could have a significant visual impact on the surrounding Green Belt, including Port Meadow."

"The Area Action Plan (AAP) includes proposals for five storey buildings and we have already seen the devastation that such development can have on the visual amenity of Port Meadow."

Plans to change the Green Belt boundary to remove part of the Wolvercote Conservation Area is among the proposals.

CPRE say this goes against an inspector's ruling in 1994 that the area should be protected.

By Jack Johnson

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

However, city council leader Bob Price labelled the claims as "nonsense".

Cllr Price added: "The site has featured as a key development site for high tech business in the City Deal and the county-wide Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) developed by the Local Enterprise Partnership."

The city council said the amount of employment land was increased to reflect the need beyond 2026 and more land was added after emergency services said they no longer wanted a base at the new development.

The city council also plans to build 500 homes, a new link road between the A40 and A44, improve the Wolvercote and Cutteslowe roundabouts and add more parking spaces to the Peartree Park and Ride.

The AAP was approved at a city council meeting on Monday, July 14.

A consultation ends in September and the city council hopes to submit the AAP to the government in October, to be adopted in June next year.

More ring road traffic misery

A CONTRAFLOW system will come into force as part of the Kennington Roundabout and Hinksey Hill Interchange revamp from Sunday, bringing further congestion to the area.

It will reduce the A423 to one lane in each direction full time between Hinksey Hill and Heyford Hill Interchange until early November.

Further restrictions and closures will be implemented at

Kennington Roundabout, Old Abingdon Road and Kennington Road.

David Nimmo Smith, Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet member for transport, said: "Up until now we have been able to work during off-peak hours to minimise delays, but this is not possible as we enter the next phase."

"The best advice is to look at whether you can use another form of transport, or maybe

change your journey and use one of the park and rides around Oxford."

"Ultimately the inconvenience drivers are putting up with at the moment will be replaced with a far more efficient journey once our work is complete."

The £6million work on the junctions began last month.

The project is due to be completed by the end of November this year.



• Contraflows will be used full-time between Hinksey Hill and Heyford Hill from Sunday

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Bike thieves strike Oxford city centre

ALMOST 2,000 bikes were stolen in Oxford over the last year, Thames Valley Police has revealed.

There were 1,955 cycle theft offences in the city centre between April 2013 and April 2014 – a reduction of 377 on the previous year.

Sergeant Matthew Sulley said: "When your bike is stolen it can have a significant impact on your way of life, especially if it's your primary mode of transport, or be quite distressing if it's a treasured possession."

"Police are working hard to drive cycle crime down, both by helping people keep their property safe and by tackling the offenders head on by arresting them."

Six people have been charged or cautioned for theft and three people for being in possession of stolen bikes during police patrols over the last week.

Detective Chief Inspector Andy Bird added: "We actively investigate all bicycle crimes because we understand the impact they have on people in Oxford."

"We actively pursue, arrest and charge cycle thieves and those who knowingly buy stolen cycles."

Officers are encouraging people to lock bikes securely and log them on security website bikeregister.com.

High hopes for new publisher's website to buy and sell online

Sellit247

FOLLOWING weeks of planning, a new online platform for residents of Oxfordshire and beyond to buy and sell is being launched today.

The sellit247.co.uk website gives sellers the chance to self-manage their own sales and accounts mostly free of fees.

Unwanted items, used cars, vans and motorcycles and property to let can be advertised on the site, and jobs can be posted online with relative ease as soon as a vacancy becomes available. The sellit247 site is operated by Didcot-based multi-media publishers Taylor Newspapers from their headquarters on the Southmead Industrial Estate.

It joins daily news websites oxfordshireguardian.co.uk and

By Andy Allens

news@taylornewspapers.co.uk

basingstokeobserver.co.uk as its third online platform.

Taylor Newspapers Managing Director, Howard Taylor, said: "The website is now live but even before today's launch we have had over 29,000 visitors to the site from as far as Truro in the west and Essex in the east, which is really encouraging."

"We are providing a new opportunity for our advertisers and readers to buy and sell online and enjoy full control over the selling process."

"Cars for sale posted on the site will also benefit from appearing in the printed ver-

sion of our newspapers – the Oxfordshire Guardian group of six weeklies and the Basingstoke Observer.

"Posts will appear on the site as soon as the advert has been created and we encourage sellers to make use of the free image uploads where up to four pictures can be uploaded to aid the selling process."

Users can create their own username and login to manage their own account.

Taylor Newspapers Operations Manager, Ted Woodhouse, said: "I have been involved in the development of this website and I am delighted with the interest shown in the site even before we officially launched it."

"I believe this new website will

give advertisers, particularly in the local area, a great opportunity to buy and sell online."

• Taylor Newspapers Ltd publisher Howard Taylor



News Bites

Fire station

OXFORD: Residents in Headington can see how their local fire station operates at an open day at Slade Park on Saturday.

Firefighters will carry out a range of demonstrations, while visitors can handle rescue equipment and chat with operational crews.

Crews will be raising money for The Fire Fighters Charity during the day, which runs from noon to 4pm.

Building award

OXFORD: An Oxford Brookes University building has missed out on the shortlist for the prestigious Stirling Prize – one of architecture's top honours.

The John Henry Brookes Building had been nominated for the prize, which includes other iconic structures like The Shard in London.

But it was voted as one of the top-15 buildings in the country by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), following on from a national award it received last month.

More parking

OXFORD: New parking facilities have been finished in Wood Farm as part of Oxford City Council's Great Estates project.

Parking for nine vehicles has been created by the redevelopment of a former drying area in Mason's Road.

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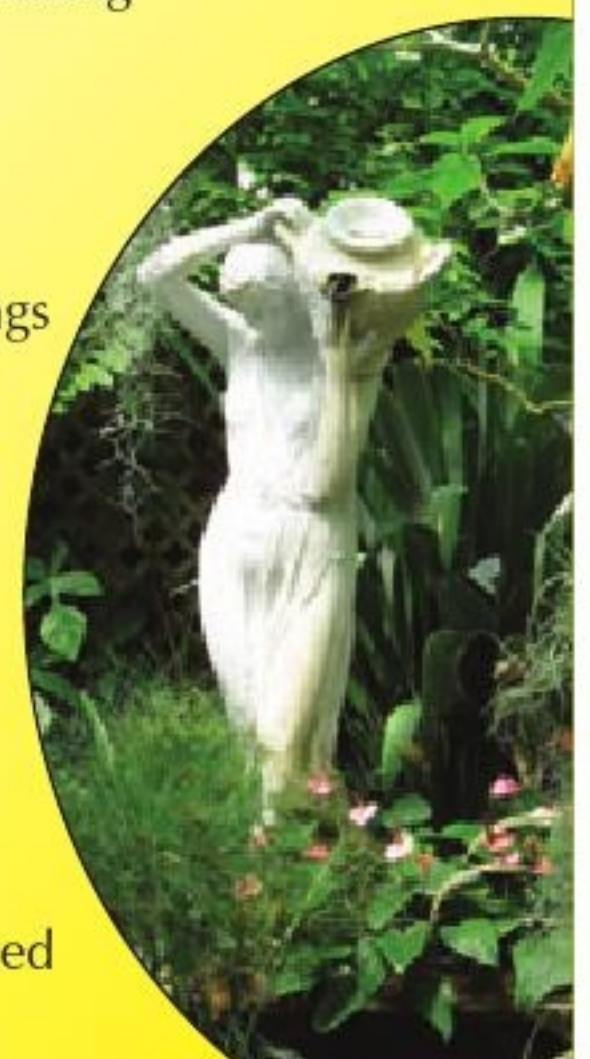
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Police search for flasher in Bicester park

A MAN wearing a luminous pink polo top exposed himself to two women aged 18 and 21 in the Bure Park Nature Reserve in Bicester on Sunday.

The women were walking along the main pathway in the nature reserve when the man approached them at around 7.30pm.

He exposed himself before leaving down the same path.

He was in his mid-30s, white, around 5ft 6ins to 5ft 8ins tall with fair skin, short dark brown hair with a receding hairline and light stubble.

The man was also wearing a luminous pink polo top with a white and black horizontal line across the chest, and tan-coloured shoes.

Investigating officer PC Nickie Harrison said: "Although it is unlikely that any members of the public would have witnessed the incident itself, they may have seen the man walking towards or away from the offence location."

"There are believed to have been a number of members of the public walking dogs in the reserve at the time, and the hope is that someone will recall seeing the man in his distinctive clothing."

Anyone with information about the exposure should contact police on 101.

Top brand stores sign up to £500m Westgate

BIG name retailers have signed up to the £500million redevelopment of Westgate Shopping Centre.

Oxford City Council leader Bob Price said the companies are "impressive" but, at present, he is not allowed to give any names.

So far, only John Lewis, which will be the redevelopment's flagship store, has been announced for the Queen Street centre.

Cllr Price said: "They are very impressive national and international names and I think it will make a massive difference to the shopping offer in Oxford."

By Jack Johnson

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Spokesperson for the Westgate Alliance undertaking the development, George Wilkinson, confirmed talks have been held with other big name companies to join John Lewis.

And on Tuesday evening the city council's West Area Planning Committee approved plans for land off Osney Lane to become a temporary car park for two years while Westgate and its car park is shut.

The Westgate Oxford Alliance,

a joint venture between property companies the Crown Estate and Land Securities, held a second four-day consultation for the plans which ended on Monday.

This included new designs unveiled for John Lewis, which will overlook Castle Mill Stream.

More than 500 people viewed the plans.

Sara Fuge, development manager for Westgate Oxford Alliance, said: "We had a very positive response to our consultation on the emerging designs in April and have spent the last few months progressing these."

"We were very excited to share the final detailed designs."

The centre will include shops, restaurants and a cinema and will be expanded into four different buildings, set in a mix of covered streets, arcades, lanes and squares.

Members of the public will be able to access the centre from all directions with planners putting 11 different entrances in place.

There will also be three public squares, including Bonn Square, with Middle Square and South Square.

An underground car park will also be installed at the south of the shopping centre, with the current multi-storey to be demolished in place of the new buildings.

The revamp also includes 122 apartments off Abbey Place.

After the first consultation changes including installing cycle parking on Turn Again Lane and improving the basement car park entrance were made.

The Alliance aim to secure detailed planning consent by the end of the year to begin building work next year.

Cllr Price added: "I am very impressed by the quality architecture. I think it will deliver all we wanted in terms of an exciting new part of the city centre."

Timeline:

- 1973 - Westgate opened
- 1986 - The centre is extended and refurbished
- 2004 - Oxford City Council endorse Westgate Partnership's development plan
- 2010 - Westgate Alliance become its new owners
- 2012 - A new masterplan is unveiled for the re-development of Westgate
- May 2013 - John Lewis sign an agreement to deliver a department store
- October 2013 - An outline planning application is submitted to the city council
- March 2014 - Planning permission is granted for the development
- April 2014 - The first public consultation is held
- July 2014 - A second consultation is organised
- August 2014 - A reserve matters planning application is to be submitted
- December 2014 - The alliance hope to secure planning consent
- 2015 - Building to begin
- 2017 - New Westgate centre to open



• An architect's design of what John Lewis could look like from Norfolk Street

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Fears raised over plans for new gravel pit

FOUR South Oxfordshire villages have joined forces to oppose plans for a gravel pit and concrete processing plant being built on their doorsteps.

Residents in Clifton Hampden, Long Wittenham, Culham and Appleford fear the 160-hectare development will ruin the countryside and clog up rural roads.

Waste disposal company Hills want to build the plant east of the railway at Culham and south of the A415, and plan to submit a planning application in December.

The proposed site lies 200m from Clifton Hampden and Appleford and 450m from Long Wittenham.

And a campaign group called Burcot and Clifton Hampden for the Protection of the River Thames (BACHPORT) now plan to raise around £26,000 to hire legal help and fight an impending planning application.

Ian Mason, spokesperson for BACHPORT, said: "If this project is allowed it would ruin a beautiful part of the countryside."

"The big issue for lots of people is the traffic."

By Jack Johnson

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"If you try and get from Long Wittenham to Clifton Hampden it's difficult now especially in the peak times."

"If you say you are going to have two tonne lorries through there it will be log jam."

BACHPORT has pledged £1,000 towards the funding and expect £2,000 from Clifton Hampden & Burcot Parish Council.

Long Wittenham, Culham and Appleford parish councils are expected to put £1,000 each towards the legal fees.

Mr Mason added: "We have had lots of volunteers and people register interests. They are helping us work on our campaign."

Long Wittenham Parish Council chairman Tom Bowtell described the latest plans as a "nightmare".

Jon Woodley-Shead, chairman of Culham Parish Council, added: "I would prefer it if they don't put the gravel pit there."

Chris Neill MBE, chair of Clifton

Hampden & Burcot Parish Council, said: "We are naturally worried about any increase in pollution or drop in air quality that may result from an increase in traffic, especially from HGV vehicles."

Hills say they will extract 4.75million tonnes of mineral from the site in 25 years while 35-40 HGV's will access the plant from the A415 every day.

A scoping request was submitted in April with Oxfordshire County Council informing Hills that an environmental statement will need to be submitted alongside a planning application.

Peter Andrew, group director of Hills Quarry Products, said: "As part of the development for this new proposal, independent consultants will assess all possible environmental effects as specified in the scoping opinion provided by the council."

"The results of these assessments and any mitigation methods will be included in the environmental statement that will form part of the final planning application submission."

News Bites

Exercise for free

SOUTH OXON: Free exercise classes for women are being offered over the summer at Willowbrook Leisure Centre in Didcot and Park Club in Milton.

Users can choose six classes to try for free, with vouchers for sessions available by emailing lil.roe@southandvale.gov.uk.

Bill Service, cabinet member for leisure at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "This is a really great offer and we hope many women take advantage over the summer months."

Art at Brookes

OXFORD: Award-winning artist and Oxford Brookes alumnus Ruth Simons will be presenting her work in the university's Abercrombie Glass Tank from today.

The exhibition 'Order' explores ideas of growth and man's perception of nature through drawings, paintings and sculptures.

It is running in the Abercrombie Building at the university's Headington campus until August 29.

Road resurfacing

CUMNOR: A £540,000 project to resurface the B4044 Eynsham Road gets underway on Monday.

Work is expected to last for four weeks, and Oxfordshire County Council are anticipating delays in the area as a result.



Mice move into a new home as part of Fairytale Farm attraction

A FAMILY of mice living in the model village of Mouse Town are set to become the latest attraction at Chipping Norton's Fairytale Farm when the exhibit opens on Saturday.

The village is based on an English rural town, complete with shops, a church, houses, pond and a jail-house.

And visitors can watch on as the mice go about their daily business.

Nick Laister, owner of Fairytale Farm, said: "We are delighted to open our newest attraction just in time for the summer holidays."

"Children will love watching our family of white and grey mice scampering around, looking out of windows, shopping in the butchers

and cheese shop, and visiting the spooky graveyard."

Fairytale Farm opened in June last year as the first UK attraction designed specifically for disabled children.

It features a mix of other attractions, including a sensory garden, farm animals and an adventure playground.

"We always try and do something different at Fairytale Farm, and I am sure that our visitors will be equally enthralled by Mouse Town," Nick added.

For more information, go to fairytalefarm.co.uk.

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Boundaries are changed

A HISTORICAL boundary has been altered as part of a South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) review.

Land around the A4130 by-pass, which was in Cholsey and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, has been moved into the Wallingford parish.

The decision was made at last Thursday's full council, and changes will come into effect next year.

It will see the Winterbrook estate become part of Wallingford after being in Cholsey for hundreds of years.

Chairman of Cholsey Parish Council Mark Gray said he feared the 100-home estate would be developed if the boundary was changed.

One amendment to the proposal was for the boundary between Brightwell-cum-Sotwell to align with the verge on the Wallingford side of the by-pass.

Didcot's boundary was also amended to include land in West Hagbourne and Long Wittenham and the section of the Millbrook estate in East Hagbourne.

The Vale of White Horse District Council's Community Governance Review was discussed at full council last Wednesday.

The proposal to move the part of Grove Technology Park from East Challow parish into Grove was rejected - but another review could be carried out after May 2015.

Guilty verdict over deaths of two kids

A WOMAN found guilty of the manslaughter of two children, after an arson attack on an Oxford home 17 years ago, is due to be sentenced tomorrow.

Fiaz Munshi, 38, of Manley Road, Oldham, in Lancashire, was cleared of the murder of nine-year-old Anum Khan and her brother Majid, 15, on Tuesday at Oxford Crown Court, but convicted of manslaughter.

It comes almost 17 years after police and firefighters were called to the Khan/Akhtar household in Magdalen Road on August 26, 1997, when the fire broke out.

Six of the seven people inside the house managed to escape, but Anum died in the fire and Majid died two days later in hospital after suffering severe burns to his head and body.

Munshi was arrested on suspicion of murder in September 1997.

But there was not enough evidence to charge her, so she was released and flew to Pakistan.

But just days later new evidence surfaced, and five people were convicted of murder in October and November 1998. Four others were also sentenced for perverting the course of justice.

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

A 10th person, Munshi's sister Riaz, was convicted of manslaughter in 1999.

Munshi was then re-arrested on October 22 last year, after a member of the Khan/Akhtar family made enquiries about her in 2012. It was found she had been back in the UK since 2005.

Detective Inspector Craig Kirby of Thames Valley Police's

Major Crime Unit said: "I cannot put into words how difficult this case has been for the family of Anum and Majid, and I know how important this verdict is to them."

"Enquiries undertaken following the call from the family in 2012 have not established why action was not taken by Thames Valley Police in 2005 to investigate evidence against Munshi."

"However, as soon as we identified this new opportunity to bring her to justice, a full review of the case was conducted which

resulted in her successful arrest and prosecution."

Adrian Foster, chief crown prosecutor for Thames and Chiltern Crown Prosecution Service, said: "Majid and Anum's family and friends have been devastated by their untimely deaths."

"We know that nothing will bring Majid and Anum back to their family and friends, but we hope that [Tuesday's] conviction brings them at least a small sense that justice has once again been done."



• Fiaz Munshi is expected to be sentenced at Oxford Crown Court tomorrow

News Bites

Rolf Harris

BICESTER: Rolf Harris has been sent to Bullingdon Prison near Bicester after being found guilty of 12 indecent assaults last month.

The artist and television presenter assaulted four girls and young women, aged from seven to 19, between 1968 and 1986.

Harris' trial at Southwark Crown Court in London lasted seven weeks and the jury deliberated on the verdicts for eight days.

Vikings day

WALLINGFORD: The town's museum is holding a Vikings Day on August 16 between 11am and 4pm.

Families can talk to Wallingford museum's Viking warrior, handle pieces of Saxton pots and make their own shield, brooch and jewellery.

All children are free while an adult ticket costs £4.

Charity tea

MINSTER LOVELL: An annual tea party celebrating its 10th year has raised £1,300 for Breast Cancer Care.

The Strawberry Tea party, held by 54-year-old Linda Jeffrey at St Kenelm's Hall, has now raised more than £10,000 for the charity since it began.

"It was such a perfect event so I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported me over the last 10 years," said Linda.

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News Bites

Football plea

DIDCOT: An under 16s girls football team is looking for new players.

Didcot Casuals U16s play matches on Saturday mornings and train on Monday's from 6 to 7.15pm.

Email manager Jeff Lynn at jefflynn755@msn.com.

Street trading

OXFORD: The city council is considering changes to their street trading policy.

It could become one of the first authorities to rule all food containers have to be either recyclable or biodegradable.

The consultation ending on August 12 also looks at rules that traders must be more than 100m from secondary schools and colleges during the day.

Feedback will be presented at a city council committee meeting on September 23.

Gaza victim

OXFORD: An Oxford Brookes University graduate is in intensive care as a result of the conflict in Gaza.

Hassan Alhallaq was a Masters student at the university in 2012/13, where he studied Science in eBusiness.

Members of his family have been killed in the past week following an attack on their home in the region.

University vice-chancellor Janet Beer said: "We are deeply shocked and saddened by this tragic news."

Rowers to set up camp below town hall in charity challenge



• Lisa Treacher (background) and Lisa Letchford during last year's rowing challenge

OWNERS of a gym will be taking on a rowing challenge in the middle of Wallingford town centre this week as they aim to conquer the world's waterways.

Lisa Treacher and Lisa Letchford, co-owners of Lifestyles Gym & Rehab Centre in Benson Lane, Wallingford, will be rowing the length of the Seine – the third longest river in France – over the course of 35 hours.

The pair will park two static rowers underneath the town hall in Market Place for the feat from 5am tomorrow until 4pm on Saturday.

They are hoping to raise more than £3,000 for cancer charity HeadCase and Helen & Douglas House Hospice in Oxford.

By Jack Johnson

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

British rower Chris Boddy will help the duo complete the 776km challenge.

Ms Treacher said: "Chris and his friends are going to come down and help us so when we hear things like that it puts our minds at rest a little bit."

"Considering Lisa and I rowed 66km each last year it is quite daunting."

The pair completed the distance of the English Channel last year – about 564km – having previously conquered the length of the River Thames.

After naturally progressing

towards France, they decided to extend their challenge into international waters.

"We thought 'we have done the length of the Thames and the Channel and we are now in France so why don't we make the point of trying to go round the world'."

"It is a nice way to think that over the years we could have gone all the way round the world."

Last year, the duo were joined by England hockey player Alex Danson and GB rower Zac Purchase.

Danson is competing at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow but it is hoped Purchase will help out again this year.

"He has been tweeted," said Lisa.

"We are going to chase him but if we can get him there we definitely will."

Twelve months ago they were also joined by members of the public who had just returned from a night out on the town.

"We had drunks coming off the bus at 3am to help us," said Lisa. "It was amazing."

She added: "The hardest thing is staying awake for the whole 35 hours."

"But it is such an amazing atmosphere and such an adrenaline buzz that I think we will be fine."

Town's MG links hailed

A GARDEN honouring car-maker MG's history in Abingdon was officially opened by the town's mayor Angela Lawrence last Thursday.

The MG Garden, in Ock Street, has been developed by the MG Car Club and Abingdon Town Council, with the aim of documenting the history and impact MG has had in the area.

It features a paved MG logo in the centre, as well as seven display boards detailing the history of its factory.

Julian White, general manager of the MG Car Club, said:

"This has been a real community project from the start, with help from Abingdon residents, local historians and Car Club members."

"It's very rewarding to see the garden being used and enjoyed."

At the peak of its car production, MG employed around 1,300 workers at its Abingdon factory, and built roughly 1,000 cars a week.

The factory, formerly situated close to the MG Car Club's current base in Cemetery Road, opened in 1929 before closing in 1980.



• Angela Lawrence cuts the ribbon to open the MG Garden

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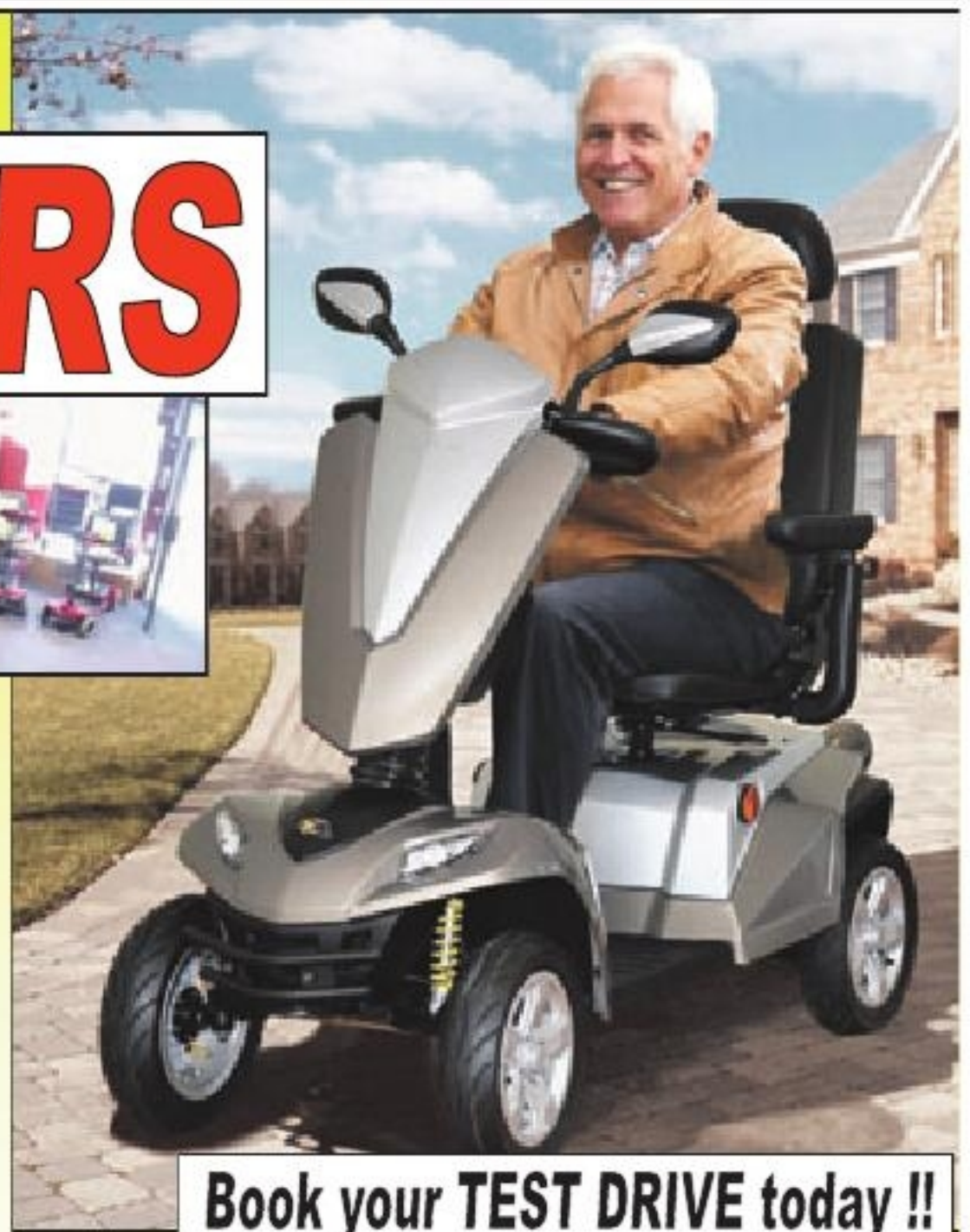
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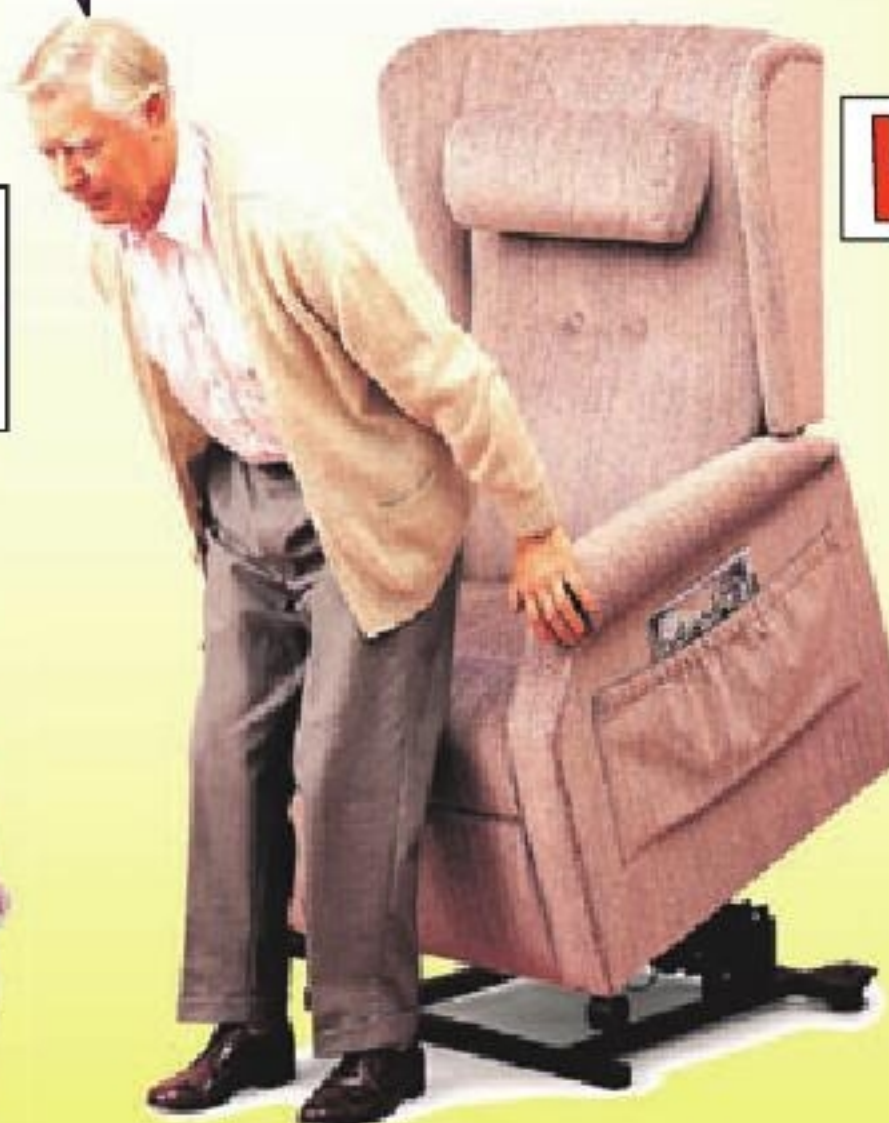


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• West End show *Buddy*, celebrating iconic musician Buddy Holly, comes to Oxford.



A Buddy Holly show

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Film screening

OXFORD'S Phoenix Picturehouse is raising funds for The Royal British Legion on Monday, with an 8pm screening of the classic war film 'Born On The Fourth Of July'.

Eight cinemas across the UK are taking part in the screenings to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War this September.

Italy in war

A PLAY documenting the plight of Italy in the early 20th century will be staged at the Old Fire Station in Oxford from today.

The Cap and Bells was written in 1916 but was largely ignored as a theatre piece until the 1930s, and has become increasingly popular since then.

The show is running until Saturday, and show times can be found at oldfirestation.org.uk.

Reggae at O2

DANCEHALL and reggae fusion icon Sanchez performs live at the O2 Academy in Oxford for a one-off show tomorrow from 10pm.

Sanchez has been working in the music industry since 1987, releasing his most recent album 'Love You More' three years ago.

For more details go to o2academy-oxford.co.uk.

Buddy visits New Theatre

THE long running West End show Buddy, which celebrates the life and music of the iconic American musician Buddy Holly, comes to Oxford's New Theatre from Monday.

Buddy is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and joins a select number of musicals that have reached this landmark milestone.

Rather than being a tribute show, it

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk



the show, has been performing in the role since 2009.

"It is essentially a play with music about the story of Buddy's life," said Glen.

"A lot of people who love Buddy's music don't necessarily come for the play, they come for the final concert he gave in Iowa, and that's the last 40 minutes of the show.

"We recreate the concert as it happens, before he went off to catch the plane which ultimately was the end of his life."

As part of his role, Glen met with Buddy's widow Maria Elena a few years ago to conduct a series of interviews with her for YouTube.

Glen said this had helped him better understand Buddy's life, and how he enjoys playing a real character rather than someone fictional.

He said: "With the story of Buddy's life, it's stepping into incredibly large shoes rather than a fictional character."

"The amount of research you do for something like this is far more extensive than being given a role that somebody's dreamed up."

"I've met with Maria, and she was absolutely wonderful, and it's with her good grace that the show goes on."

"The insight she gave me into the man was something I could not possibly have learned from either videos or books."

Buddy is running at the New Theatre in George Street until August 2.

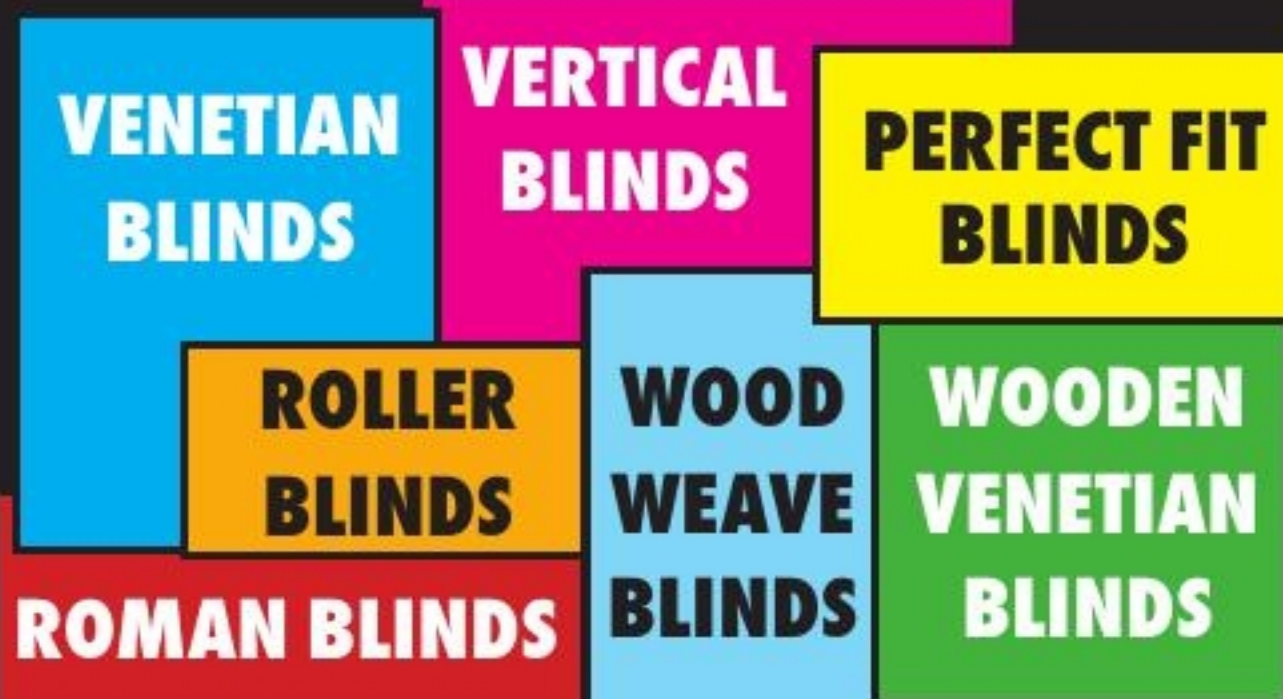
For a full list of show times and ticket prices, go to newtheatreoxford.org.uk or call the box office on 0844 871 3020.

• Glen Joseph plays Buddy Holly at the New Theatre next week



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Join award-winning sparky stand up Joe Lycett as he workshops material for his third new hour show. Expect it to be rough round the edges, interactive, potentially slightly awkward, but most of all BLOOD YGOOD FUN. His 2012 show got nominated for Edinburgh Comedy Award Best Newcomer so it can't be all bad. As seen on 'Celebrity Juice' and 'Never Mind the Buzzcocks'.

"Imaginative and cheekily subversive comedy ...Entertainingly mischievous"— **Guardian**

"A delightfully natural style that builds a real connection with the audience ...an accomplished storyteller"— **Chortle**



Angela Barnes: You Can't Take It With You

Hotly anticipated debut hour from BBC's New Comedy Award winner and star of Ch4's 'Stand Up For The Week'.

Angela is getting on, and is thinking about the big stuff, you know, life, love, family, work and death. And how rubbish she is at all of it.

"Hers is a world-weary and devastatingly matter-of-fact outlook on the world that really makes her stand out. Like all the best comics, she manages to articulate a singular perspective while making it seem like a universal truth"— **The Guardian**

"Beautifully paced"— **Chortle**

Please bear in mind that this show will contain strong language and adult humour

Management Disclaimer: Please note — that while we make every effort, shows can change without notice due to unforeseen circumstances and commitments of artists

Dance Week

DANCE Week gets underway at Chipping Norton Theatre on Monday, giving participants the chance to train with a professional choreographer.

Attendees can learn dance styles including jazz, hip hop, contemporary, ballet.

It runs until August 2.

For more details, go to chipping-nortontheatre.co.uk.

Motown night

A NEW show celebrating more than 50 years of Motown music comes to the Mill Arts Centre in Banbury on Saturday.

It was in 1959 that Berry Gordy started his Motown Empire in Detroit, and the genre still commands huge audience support to this day.

The show starts at 8pm, and more information is available at themillartscentre.co.uk.

Disability arts

WORKSHOPS, activities and performances for adults with learning disabilities are set to be staged at the Cornerstone in Didcot tomorrow.

Access All Areas will offer a selection of creative projects to people with learning disabilities, as well as an evening of musical entertainment.

For more details, go to cornerstone-arts.org.

Found Footage Festival

A SHOWCASE of quirky and hilarious video clips from across the world will feature in a unique film festival at the Ultimate Picture Palace in Oxford next Thursday.

The Found Footage Festival has been running in the US for the past 10 years, showing videos found at garage sales and second-hand shops through-

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk



out North America.

Hosts Nick Prueher and Joe Pickett offer a live commentary of the footage, along with where-are-they-now

updates on the subjects of the clips.

And to celebrate the festival's 10th anniversary, Nick and Joe are bringing the show to 10 locations across the UK, including London, Liverpool and Manchester as well as Oxford.

"We've been coming to the UK for the past four or five years, but we had never been to Oxford before," said Nick.

"Truth be told, I've wanted to visit Oxford ever since Michael J Fox went there on a very special vacation episode of 'Family Ties' in 1985, so this will be a lifelong dream come true."

The pair have amassed more than 6,000 videos, with oddities including a McDonald's training video, a Christmas-themed workout, and a tape entitled 'Butt Camp'.

Their collection has grown extensively since picking up their first find in Wisconsin in 1991, and there's no sign of it slowing down just yet.

"Joe and I tour with our show and in each city we hit local shops and sales looking for unwanted VHS tapes," Nick added.

"Our worry is that they'll end up in landfills, so that's why we tour all around the world to rescue them before they're gone forever."

"Luckily, now that people know about our show they send us videos or bring their finds to our live shows, and that's really helped the project keep going."

"In fact, we'd encourage anyone who's found a video in Oxford to please bring it to the show!"

For more information or for tickets go to uppcinema.com.

• Nick Prueher (left) and Joe Pickett bring the Found Footage Festival to Oxford next week



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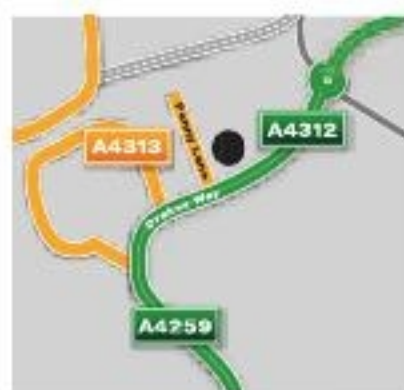
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8:20 pm-11:00 pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
20.45 Eloise Rees
21.30 The Pink Diamond Revue
22.15 Wardens
£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegotickets.com/event/277726
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26 Jul 2014-31 Aug 2014, 10:00 am-5:30 pm
WATERPERRY GARDENS, NR WHEATLEY
Orienteering Treasure Trails
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3 Aug 2014
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC/ OXON VEG CYCLE

16 Aug 2014, 7:45 pm
Music at the Barn, Witney
STUART RYAN LIVE CONCERT
Regarded as one of the UK's finest fingerstyle guitarists, Stuart Ryan

began his professional career in 2002 when he was awarded Guitarist Magazine's 'Acoustic Guitarist of the Year.' He quickly came to the attention of Martin Taylor MBE, one of the world's leading jazz guitarists, who gave Stuart valuable encouragement and asked him to perform at his Kirkmichael Guitar Festival sharing the bill with leading players Tommy Emmanuel and Bireli Lagrene amongst others. An acclaimed performer, Stuart has gone on to share the stage with many of the world's greatest acoustic guitarists including Martin Taylor MBE, Eric Roche, Thomas Leeb and Jon Gomm, all of whom he is proud to count as friends. Several of Stuart's previous students have also gone on to become prominent players themselves such as Youtube sensation Mike Dawes and 'Acoustic Guitarist of the Year 2011' Will McNicol. Stuart's music has also ended up in some unlikely places - Lamb vocalist/songwriter Lou Rhodes was so impressed with Stuart's study pieces that she used one of them in her track 'Rounds' from Lamb's 2011 album '5'.

16 Aug 2014, 3:30 pm-5:30 pm
Music at the Barn, Witney
AUGUST-STUART RYAN - GUITAR MASTERCLASS - ARRANGING FOR FINGER-STYLE GUITAR
"Stuart Ryan is regarded as one of the UK's finest fingerstyle guitarists. He has written countless articles for guitar magazines and has taught simply hundreds of students.

Stuart's previous students have included You Tube sensation Mike Dawes and 'Acoustic Guitarist of the Year 2011' Will McNicol.
<http://www.musicatthebarn.org/>

21 Aug 2014, 6:00 pm
Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley
THE PANTALOONS 'HISTORY OF BRITAIN'
Gates open 5pm
Mud, blood and stiff upper-lips! It's the History of Britain as you've never seen it before. Join the critically-acclaimed Pantaloon Theatre Company for a breathless race through the centuries in this delightfully inventive open-air show. This historically hysterical show is packed with songs, sketches and silliness and is suitable for all ages. No seating is provided so please bring your own picnic chairs or rugs. Tickets are non-refundable and the performance will go ahead except in severe weather conditions.
www.waterperrygardens.co.uk

21 Aug 2014-23 Aug 2014
Oxford Playhouse
CHARLIE AND LOLA'S EXTREMELY NEW PLAY
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www.oxfordplayhouse.com

25 Aug 2014, 10:00 am-12:30 pm
Didcot Town FC, Bowmont Water, Didcot, OX11 7AF

DIDCOT URBAN RACE 2014
"Run, jog or just walk - this is a fun and exciting event for the Summer Bank Holiday! It's organised by Thames Valley Orienteering Club and is ideal for all ages and abilities - families, children and runners too. An orienteering race does not follow a set route. Instead you have to visit a series of checkpoints and register each one with an electronic timing chip. The checkpoints may be along streets, alleyways, behind bushes in the areas of parkland or even around the Ladygrove lakes. The challenge is to decide what you think the quickest route will be between the checkpoints and then to find your own way along that route using a special orienteering map. The event takes place on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August, around the intricate streets and parkland of the Ladygrove estate. There will be several courses to choose from, ranging from 1km for children in a traffic free area, up to 7km for runners. Help will also be available. Registration and parking will be at Didcot Town FC, Bowmont Water, OX11 7AF. Check out the flyer on our website for more info and entry fees. Just come along on the day between 10am and midday and we'll get you started. Just don't forget your sense of adventure! Please do email us if you have any questions: publicity@tvoc.org.uk
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21.30 Octopuses
22.15 The Kites
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www.oxfordplayhouse.com

7 Sep 2014
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: CHEESE & CHUTNEY

12 Sep 2014-21 Sep 2014
Burton Taylor Studio
WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FIND A DINOSAUR
"Everybody likes digging, right? Maybe you use a spade, or just your hands. Sand or earth fly everywhere until you discover something. Maybe, just maybe, it's ... a dinosaur! Oxford Playhouse presents Oxford's very own pre-historic story in this bone-shaking, belly-aching show.
Times: Various
Age guideline: 4 to 8
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

13 Sep 2014, 7:45 pm
Music at the Barn, Witney
MATT MIDGLEY - LIVE CONCERT
"Matt Midgley is a Scottish solo-acoustic guitarist, singer and songwriter based in Oxfordshire. His technical percussive guitar skills and alternative folk style create an amazingly unique sound, topped with simple melodies, catchy hooks, and strong Scottish vocals. After a hugely successful 2013 of touring, festival hopping, and collaborating with the likes of Mike Dawes and Thomas Leeb, Matt is currently working on new material which he will be showcasing this Summer.
<http://www.musicatthebarn.org/>

14 Sep 2014-5 Oct 2014, 10:00 am-5:30 pm
Sarah Wiseman Gallery
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www.wisegal.com

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Your name will be entered into the draw and if you win you will be contacted to tell you how to collect your tickets.

You don't have to use the tickets immediately as they are valid for up to one year, so you can wait for the film you REALLY want to see!



24 Sep 2014, 7:30 pm
Burton Taylor Studio

WHEN WE EMBRACED

A playful and charming show about two people. Actually, it's about you. In fact it's about everyone, but really it's about two people, one of which may be you. Age guideline: 14+ www.oxfordplayhouse.com

26 Sep 2014, 7:30 pm
Burton Taylor Studio

I WISH I WAS LONELY

"An interactive show about contactability. A show in which the audience commit to leaving their phones on. There will be poems, there will be stories and there will be conversation. Age guideline: 14+ www.oxfordplayhouse.com

27 Sep 2014
Burton Taylor Studio

SHOE BABY

Times: 11am & 2pm
A magical puppet show! A fantastical sing-a-long adventure with a baby who takes to the sea, to the air, to the zoo all in a shoe! Age guideline: 2 to 6 www.oxfordplayhouse.com

27 Sep 2014-28 Sep 2014, 10:00 am - 5:30 pm

Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley, Oxford, OX33 1JZ

MICHAELMAS DAISY WEEKEND

1 Oct 2014, 7:30 pm
Burton Taylor Studio

THE FORENSICS OF A FLAT (AND OTHER STORIES)

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the tune of bad Karaoke. www.oxfordplayhouse.com

5 Oct 2014
Orchard Centre Didcot

DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: CURRY & SPICE SPECIAL

6 Oct 2014-7 Oct 2014, 7:30 pm
Burton Taylor Studio

CONSCIENTIOUS

"Rebekah is back at her parents' house, holed up with her old university essays and family records. Determined to move on with her life, she begins writing the story of her great-grandfather, a World War One conscientious objector." www.oxfordplayhouse.com

7 Oct 2014, 7:45 pm - 9:15 pm
Old School Room, St Peter's, First Turn, Wolvercote, OX2 8AQ

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Dr Winchester worked as an archaeological surveyor at The British School at Rome, before studying Lichenometry in Lapland, Scotland and the Western Alps for her D.Phil.

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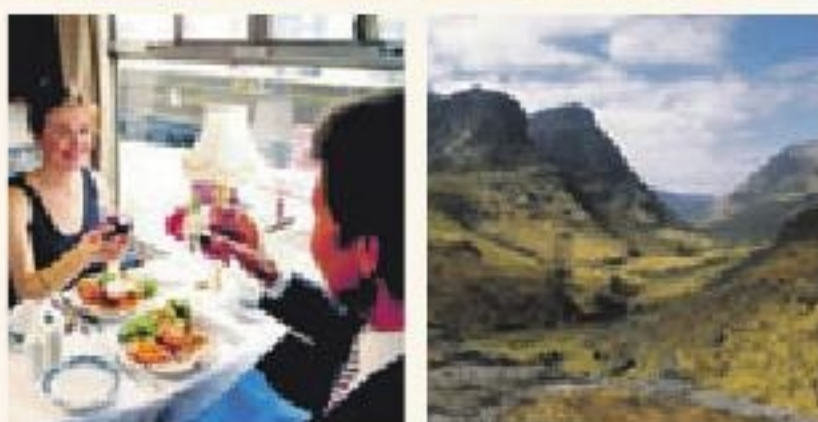
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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

	7			4		9		6
				5	1	4	2	
8	5					7		3
9			6			8		
6	2		5		4		7	9
		3			2			1
2		1					8	5
	6	7	1	8				
4		9		6				3

	3	4		7		9	1	
1	6						8	5
4			3		7			6
	5						3	
7			8		5			9
3	7						2	1
	4	8		9		6	7	

1		2			4			
6	5				8		3	
				2		1		5
		3					4	8
5	4					2		
3		8		5				
	1		9				6	3
			7			8		9

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

- 4 Crust on bronze (6)
8 Brought into agreement (7)
10 Wins the support of (7)
11 Viewpoint (5)
12 Darkness (5)
13 Portion (9)
16 Former name of 19 (4,5)
19 African state (5)
20 Plain (5)
22 Issue (7)
23 Fetter (7)
24 Eating (6)

Quick Clues Down

- 1 Country (6)
2 Telephone (4)
3 Inquiry (13)
5 Sea (8,5)
6 Distinguishing emblems (8)
7 Resources (6)
9 Dig (5)
14 Offering to a god (8)
15 Settled (6)
17 Lends (5)
18 Aim (6)
21 Deer (4)

Cryptic Clues Across

- 4 A curve of yellow after the start of the century (6)
8 Atomic piles without a change to clergymen (7)
10 Jealous that a space for print has five promissory notes (7)
11 Preserves the remedies (5)
12 Odd afterthought for the remnants (5)
13 Feeling of having sent round a new beginning to time (9)
16 Drink in the titles of those who are called after one another (9)
19 Move the garment (5)
20 But he need not always propose marriage (5)
22 Push back the hair before our attempt to captivate (7)
29 Insures the break of dawn (7)
24 A quiet contract would give satisfaction (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

- 1 Zig-zags round the right courses (6)
2 Result of an injury in a serious car accident? (4)
3 Aware the prong is bent inside, but governed by what is right (13)
5 Announcement of promotion (13)
6 Express disapproval it's still a kilometre to the ship - and how to find the place (8)
7 Is in the remainder and can withstand (6)
9 A common sight? Either meaning can give the answer (5)
14 On time? An awkward way of making a suggestion (8)
15 Not aware that the snake has come round the sheltered side (6)
17 Open spaces for Othello's compatriots (5)
18 There could be an oak in the shortened version of the road (6)
21 Proud that those in front had one (4)

1		2		3		4	5		6		7
8						9					
						10					
11											
									12		
13		14									
15				16		17					18
19											
								20		21	
22											
						23					
24											

Scribble space

This week's solutions

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
6	5	4	3	2	1			
5	4	3	2	1				
4	3	2	1					
3	2	1						
2	1							
1								

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
6	5	4	3	2	1			
5	4	3	2	1				
4	3	2	1					
3	2	1						
2	1							
1								

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
6	5	4	3	2	1			
5	4	3	2	1				
4	3	2	1					
3	2	1						
2	1							
1								

Quick Crossword
Across: 1 Padua 8 Aligned 10 Enlists 11 Angle 12 Night 13 Allotment 16 Gold Coast 19 Ghana 20 Clear 22 Edition 23 Shackie 24 Dining
Down: 1 Canada 2 Ring 3 Investigation 5 Atlantic Ocean 6 Insigria 7 Assets 9 Delve 14 Libation 15 Agreed 17 Loans 18 Target 21 Elks

Cryptic Crossword
Across: 4 Camber 8 Reactors 10 Envious 11 Cures 12 Rumps 13 Sentiment 17 Namesakes 19 Shift 20 Mover 22 Enamour 23 Sunrise 24 Please
Down: 1 Tracks 2 Scar 3 Conspicuous 5 Advertisement 6 Bookmark 7 Resist 9 Sense 14 Nominate 15 Asleep 17 Moors 18 Street 21 Van

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To find out more about FunTech's summer camps, visit their website at www.funtech.co.uk to see their full brochure. 01628 621216 info@funtech.co.uk



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DUBAI International Arabian Races returns to Newbury Racecourse on Sunday, 10 August and it's bigger and better than ever!

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Entry is completely FREE for everyone with prize draws, competitions and children's entertainment running throughout the day.

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Closing date:

Friday, August 1, 2014

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Q: Which of these is an iconic building in Dubai? Empire State Building, Eiffel Tower or Burj Khalifa?

T&Cs: Tickets are non-refundable and cannot be exchanged for cash value. Winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries. Entrants must be 18 or over.

For more information about the day please visit www.diaraces.com or find us on:

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Mazda MX-5 marks 25 years



• The Mazda MX-5 Roadster Coupe 2.0-litre 25th anniversary limited edition

ENGINEERS for Mazda were given a brief more than 25 years ago to design a car that was as much of a laugh as British sports cars of the 1960s – but which didn't have their penchant for breaking down.

And the Mazda MX-5 was born.

When global production reached 531,890 units in May 2000, the MX-5 was certified by Guinness World Records as the world's bestselling two-seater sports car in history.

This record was updated again in 2011.

So the Japanese manufacturer decided to bring out the MX-5 Roadster Coupe 2.0-litre 25th anniversary limited edition, to mark the car's 25th anniversary this August.

With the car's different variety of body colours, two petrol engines and convertible roof, the MX-5 is dubbed the ultimate 'let's take a spontaneous drive away' car.

Also known as the Roadster in Central America and in its native Japan, the MX-5 has been described by Top Gear magazine as the best selling sports car on the planet.

The car is such a hit in the UK, that Top Gear presenter Jeremy Clarkson said: "The fact is that if you want a

REVIEW: Mazda MX-5

By James Richings

sports car, the MX-5 is perfect.

"Nothing on the road will give you better value. Nothing will give you so much fun. The only reason I'm giving it five stars is because I can't give it 14."

But only 1,000 individually numbered editions will be built.

In a testament to Britain's enduring love affair with open-topped motoring, 750 cars will be made available to UK customers.

The first was unveiled at this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed last month.

The MX-5 is known for its reliability, tight handling and 'fun factor'.

The limited edition car is based on the current Roadster Coupe 2.0-litre Sport Tech Nav variant.

And there's no chance of mistaking this MX-5 for any other down to its model-unique "soul red" metallic paint finish.

The first came to the public eye in February 1989 at the Chicago Auto Show, where it became a massive hit.

DEFY CONVENTION



STILL RAISING THE ROOF AFTER 25 YEARS

MAZDA MX-5 25TH ANNIVERSARY LIMITED EDITION



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Mazda MX-5 25th Anniversary Limited Edition comes with a list of exclusive design features such as unique numbering, Soul Red Metallic paint, 17" Dark Gunmetal alloys, Brilliant Black contrasting retractable hardtop roof and mirrors, and the latest cutting-edge innovations. Yet it still retains every ounce of the legendary driving exhilaration embodied by the very first model that burst onto the scene back in 1989.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda MX-5 range: Urban 25.4 (11.1) - 28.8 (9.8), Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2) - 50.4 (5.6), Combined 35.3 (8.0) - 39.8 (7.1). CO₂ emissions (g/km) 188 - 167.

*The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results. Retail sales only subject to vehicle availability for vehicles registered between 01/07/14 and 30/09/14 at participating dealers. TSC apply. *0% finance available on all Mazda MX-5 models with no minimum deposit on Mazda Personal Contract Purchase. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew. Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. (ii) Return. Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Finance is subject to status, 18% or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Mazda Financial Services RHL 15% Models shown: Mazda MX-5 Roadster Coupe 2.0i 25th Anniversary Limited Edition, OTR £22,995. OTR includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 month road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. *Test drives subject to applicable status and availability. Details correct at time of going to print. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Images may not be to UK specification. Johnsons Cars Ltd is an Approved Representative of TTC Compliance Limited which is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Ltd. Registered Office: Enigma Court, Albert Street, Redditch B97 4DA, United Kingdom. Registration No. 3716766 VAT Registration No. GB992795966.

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2010 10	Chevrolet Aveo LS 5dr Petrol 5-Speed Manual 43600 Miles	£3,995
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FIAT

2007 07	Fiat Grande Punto Active 8v 5dr 1.2 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 56000 Miles	£3,595
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2011 60	Ford C-MAX Titanium 1.6 Diesel 5-Speed Manual 46910 Miles	£8,395
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2000 W	Ford Focus Zetec 5dr 1.8 - TAXED END SEPT 14, Petrol 5-Speed Manual 83470 Miles	£1,795
1999 V	Ford Fiesta Zetec 3dr 1.25 - Tax Aug 14, Petrol 5-Speed Manual 63390 Miles	£1,495
2003 53	Ford Focus Zetec 1.8 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 115900 Miles	£995

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2004 04	Honda CR-V I-VTEC SE Sport, Petrol 5-Speed Manual 106300 Miles	£3,995
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2006 56	Hyundai Getz Gsi 3dr 1.1 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 14260 Miles	£3,395
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KIA

2006 06	Kia Rio 1.6 CRDi Diesel, in Black 34,000 miles	£3,995
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2003 03	Land Rover Freelander Kalahari Station Wagon 1.8 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 72699 Miles	£2,695
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2012 12	Mazda Mazda2 Tamura 5dr 1.4 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 52865 Miles	£6,795
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2006 55	Peugeot 407 SW SE, Petrol 6-Speed Manual 103840 Miles	£2,795
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2004 54	Renault Scenic Dynamique dCi 1.9 Diesel 6-Speed Manual 46710 Miles	£2,495
2003 53	Renault Clio Dynamique 16v 5dr 1.4 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 67480 Miles	£1,995

SAAB

2005 55	Saab 9-5 Vector Tid 2.2 Diesel Automatic 89890 Miles	£2,695
2005 54	Saab 9-3 Linear T 2.0 AUTO Petrol Automatic 82320 Miles	£2,695

SEAT

2006 06	SEAT Ibiza T Fr 20v 3dr 150 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 84236 Miles	£2,795
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SUZUKI

2004 04	Suzuki Grand Vitara TD 5DR A/C NICE Diesel 5-Speed Manual 110000 Miles	£3,395
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2003 03	Toyota Landcruiser Lc4 8-Seats D-4d Diesel Automatic 101000 Miles	£9,795
2007 57	Toyota RAV-4 XT-R D-4d Diesel 6-Speed Manual 99900 Miles	£6,995
2008 57	Toyota Yaris Tr Vvti 5dr Super Car Petrol 5-Speed Manual 81000 Miles	£4,395
2005 54	Toyota Celica VVT-I 1.8 Itr Coupe Petrol 6-Speed Manual 73500 Miles	£3,795
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2007 57	Vauxhall Zafira Life 16v 1.6 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 65105 Miles	£4,595
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2004 54	Volkswagen Touran SE TDi 7 Str Diesel 6-Speed Manual 80325 Miles	£5,295
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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall Corsa Excite: Urban: 44.1 (6.4), Extra-urban: 65.7 (4.3), Combined: 55.4 (5.1). CO2 emissions: 120g/km.[#]

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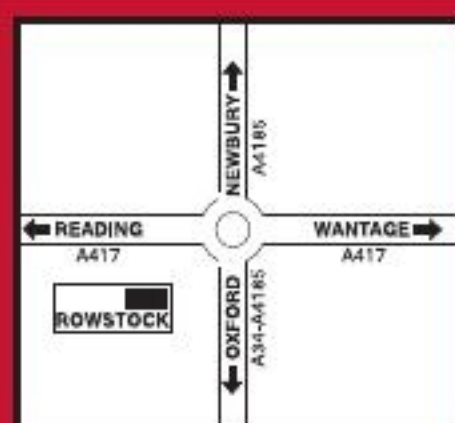
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- 06 06 FOCUS LX AUTO 1.6 PETROL, 5dr, tonic blue met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, a/c, 6 airbags, ABS, PAS, low mileage for age 52,888, FSH **£3,995**
- 2013 FOCUS 1.8 PETROL ZETEC 125PS, 5dr, powershift, 6 spd, auto, panther black met/grey, DAB r/CD, Blue tooth hands free voice control, a/c, e/w&m, c/l, privacy glass, 17" alloys, HFS, front fogs, 5 spd, 5 a/b, ABS, ESP, rear park sensors, 2 years manufacturer's warranty, one local owner from new, very low mileage 3,440 **£13,495**
- 08 08 FOCUS STYLE 1.8 PETROL 125PS, 5 spd, 5dr, vision blue met/grey, c/l, e/w&m, PAS, r/CD, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, ABS, 2 owners from new, service history, 38,508 miles **SOLD**
- 06 56 FOCUS GHIA 1.8 PETROL, 5 dr, tonic blue met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, a/c, HFS, auto lights & wipers, cruise, 6 airbags, front fogs, ABS, 2 local owners from new, FSH, 51,907 miles .. **£4,795**
- 12 12 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS 5DR, Candy Red Pearl/Grey, DAB r/CD, e/w&m, c/l, Blue tooth. Hands free, voice control, 5 speed, HFS, Rear park sensors, a/c, Front fogs, 6 a/b, ABS, ESP, one local owner, FSH, 21,500 miles **£10,995**
- 12 12 FOCUS ZETEC 1.6 TDCI DIESEL, 5dr, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB r/CD, Blue tooth, HFS, a/c, privacy glass, 17" alloys, rear park sensors, front fogs, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, one local owner, FSH, RFL only £20 per year, 23,581 miles..... **WAS £11,195 NOW £10,995**
- 2013 FOCUS ZETEC S ESTATE 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS DIESEL 5DR ESTATE, frozen white/grey, 6spd, e/w&m, c/l, DAB r/CD, Ford sync, PAS, HFS, a/c, alloys, front fogs, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, cruise, city pack, auto parking, city stop, Blis, lane keeping, auto lights & wipers, very low mileage 1,579 miles, our owner's car fully loaded, 1,579 miles..... **WAS £17,995 NOW £15,995**

KA

- 11 61 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, moonlight silver/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, PAS, 2 airbags, a/c, auto start stop, ABS, FSH, £30 RFL per year, one owner from new, 45,766 miles..... **£5,995**
- 11 11 KA ZETEC 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, midnight black met/grey, 5 spd, PAS, a/c, HFS, r/CD, e/w&m, 2 a/b, ABS, c/l, front fogs, alloys, rear roof spoiler, 1 owner, very low mileage 7,500 miles, FSH... **£6,995**
- 11 11 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, midnight black/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, PAS, 2 airbags, a/c, £30 RFL per year, one owner from new, 31,213 miles..... **WAS £6,295 NOW £5,995**
- 10 60 KA TITANIUM 1.2, petrol, 3dr, moonlight silver met/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, climate, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, fr fogs, alloys, 2 a/bags, ABS, 2 owners from new, only £30 RFL/year, 34,827 miles **WAS £6,995 NOW £5,495**

KUGA

- 09 09 KUGA TITANIUM 4X4 2.0 TDCI 140 PS DIESEL, 5dr, panther black, part leather grey trim, 6 spd, e/w&m, climate, DAB r & CD, c/l, PAS, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, cruise, auto lights & wipers, 2 local owners from new, FSH, 49,970 miles **£13,195**

FIESTA

- 11 11 FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 PETROL 120PS, 5dr, hot magenta special met/grey, e/w&m, cruise, auto lights & wipers, 5 spd, alloys, r/CD, c/l, front fogs, HFS, auto dipping mirror, Blue tooth, 2 owners from new, very low milage 11,200, FSH **£9,595**
- 12 62 FIESTA ZETEC 1.25 PETROL 82PS, 5dr, frozen white/grey, 6 spd, e/w&m, c/l, City pack, auto light & wipers, blue tooth, privacy glass, 5 airbags, r/CD, front fogs, 21,333 miles..... **£9,495**
- 10 10 FIESTA ZETEC 1.25 PETROL, 5dr, avalon met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, City pack (folding mirrors & rear park sensors), a/c, HFS, PAS, ABS, r/CD, front fogs, blue tooth, 5 airbags, c/l, FSH, demo + 1 local owner, very low mileage for age 24,323 miles..... **£7,995**
- 11 61 FIESTA ZETEC 1.4 PETROL, 5dr, colorado red/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, r/CD, a/c, front fogs, 5 a/b, ESP, alloys, e/m, PAS, 1 owner from new, FSH, very low mileage 7,147 **£9,295**
- 11 11 FIESTA ZETEC AUTO 1.4 PETROL, 5dr, panther black met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, HF Zetec Auto Screen, r/CD, PAS, ABS, ESP, City pack with reverse parking sensors, front fogs, a/c, 5 airbags, one owner from new, FSH, 22,190 miles **£8,595**
- 12 12 FIESTA 1.25 PETROL ZETEC, 5dr, panther black met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, Blue tooth hands free, HFS, a/c, ABS, 5 airbags, front fogs, PAS, one owner from new, FSH, 12 months manufacturer's warranty, 13,020 miles..... **£9,595**
- 12 62 FIESTA 1.6TDCI 95PS ZETEC ECONETIC 5DR, Moondust silver, Grey trim, 5 Speed, Electric windows & mirrors, c/l, HFS, r/CD, a/c, ABS, 5 Air bags, Front fogs, Power steering, Alloys, ESP, City pack. One owner from new, full service history, 29,540 miles, **£0 RFL** **£9,895**

C MAX

- 10 59 C-MAX ZETEC 1.6 PETROL, 5dr, moondust silver/grey, 5spd, e/front windows & mirrors, remote locking, ABS, CD, a/c, HFS, privacy glass, front fogs, seat back tables, 23,469 miles **£6,995**
- 11 11 GRAND C MAX TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI 140PS DIESEL AUTO 7 SEAT MPV, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, heated screen, 6 spd, DAB r/CD, climate, cruise, auto lights & wipers, auto park assist, front & rear park sensors, c/l, PAS, B'tooth, FSH, 1 owner, 19,100 miles..... **£12,295**

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- 07 07 HONDA JAZZ 1.4 SE AUTOMATIC, 5dr, alabaster silver/grey, PAS, e/w & m, CD, c/l, alloy wheels, ABS, airbags, 41,790 miles..... **£5,295**



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MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. Model shown is a 208 Style 1.2 VTi82 puretech with metallic paint 3 door. Terms and conditions apply, participating dealers only or visit www.peugeot.co.uk. To finance your lease/purchase we may introduce you to a limited number of lenders. **#Passport Personal Lease:** A guarantee may be required. Over 18's only. Written quotations available on request from Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill RH1 1QA. 208 Style 1.2 VTi82 Puretech with metallic paint 3 door, customer initial payment \$4,818, £500 Peugeot initial payment contribution, optional final payment £6,124. 35 monthly payments payable. 6,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may apply. If you choose to pay the optional final payment, you can pay an annual payment equivalent to one of your monthly payments but will not own the car. Ownership is possible with Passport - ask us for details. Offer available on cars ordered by 30/09/14. Calls may be recorded for training purposes. Information correct at time of going to press.

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Representative example



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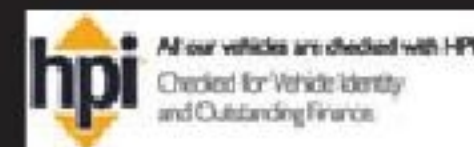
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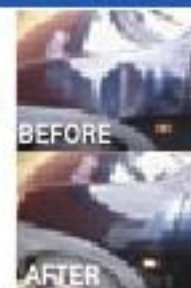
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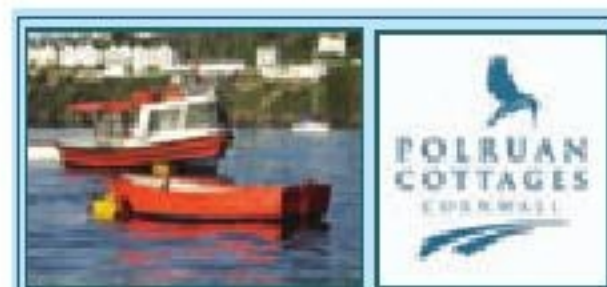
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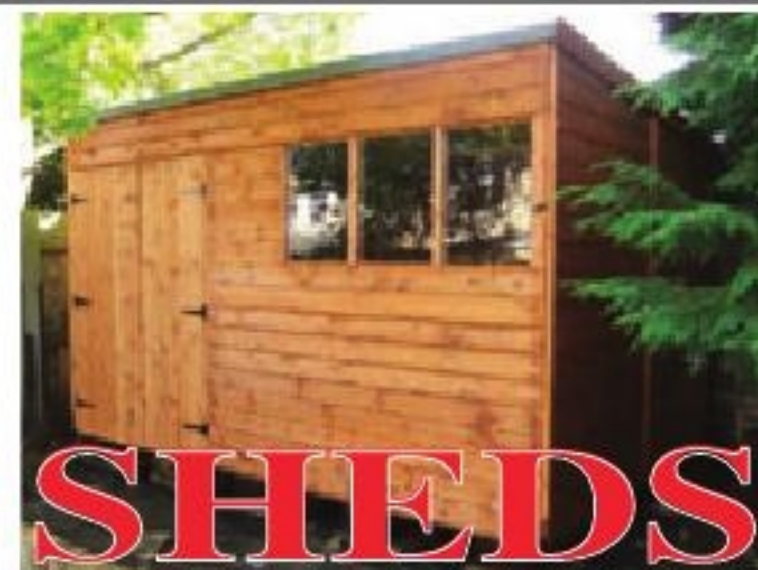
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Vella backs new recruit Weepu to shine for Welsh

NATHAN Vella is confident fellow New Zealander Piri Weepu will be a big hit at London Welsh this season.

World Cup winner Weepu signed for the Exiles earlier this month from Super 15 side the Blues.

Vella lined up with Weepu during their time at Auckland and is looking forward to linking up with his compatriot once again as Welsh prepare for life in the Aviva Premiership next season.

"It will be good to see him again and catch up when he arrives," said Vella.

"We're not in the Aviva Premiership just to survive, we're here to compete and signing someone like Piri is a huge statement.

"I've never played in the Premiership myself, but he's one of those players that will just slot in.

"He'll be fine."

Vella joined the Exiles in December and believes Weepu will be a big hit with the rest of the squad when he joins next month.

"He's a really good guy, great for the team environment and he's a really skillful player," said

By Jack Johnson

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Vella.

"He's vocal and he sees the game in a different way to how most people see it.

"He's always willing to help young players and spread his knowledge around".

Vella added: "He's down to earth and he's got time for everyone.

"He'll get his head down and just be another member of the team."

The Dragons' Kiwi contingent is now up to five with Weepu joining Daniel Brown, Cameron Goodhue, Vella and team manager Sonny Parker.

Vella says it has helped raise the club's popularity on the other side of the world.

"It's definitely raised the profile of the Club back home," he said.

"Piri's one of the most famous rugby players over the last 10 years and it's really put London Welsh on the map as an Aviva Premiership club."

The Exiles' first pre-season friendly is against Henley Hawks on August 9.

Tonkin relishing new challenge



LONDON Welsh have appointed a performance analyst to help boost their chances of becoming a competitive top-flight outfit.

Richard Tonkin joins from Aviva Premiership side Wasps where he spent three years working with the first team.

He has also previously worked with the South Africa Women's 7s team.

"It's exciting," he said. "It's a close-knit team here and the new guys seem to be settling in well, and complementing the guys that were already here.

"I'm really looking forward to the new season."

Head coach Justin Burnell added: "It's great to have Richard on board.

"He's fitted in remarkably well in a short space of time.

"I've no doubt his knowledge will be hugely beneficial in helping us compete next season."

• Richard Tonkin (Picture by Martin John)

City beat local rivals Didcot in friendly

JAVI Rodriguez and Felipe Barcelos were on the scoresheet as Oxford City beat Didcot Town 2-0 at Loop Meadow on Tuesday night.

Justin Merritt's side edged what turned out to be a competitive friendly against a Didcot side that has impressed during pre-season.

Rodriguez delightfully curled the ball into the top corner from 20 yards on 36 minutes before Barcelos fired past Alex Williams with seven minutes remaining.

City are showing all the hallmarks

of becoming an eye-catching side in the Conference North and Merritt was pleased with the movement of his attacking players.

"I'm not looking at anyone as a wide player or a striker," he said.

"Everybody has got to move and what we are looking at is the principles of dropping into spaces.

"We haven't quite got there yet but that's where the goals come from and I think players like to have that freedom."

Merritt also praised Spanish forward Rodriguez who, as well as

scoring an impressive opener on Tuesday, has shown glimpses of his ability in pre-season so far.

"Everybody that has seen Javi can recognise what a great player he is going to be," said Merritt.

"His touches and the way he drifts in and out and a moment of quality - it was certainly a goal worth coming to see."

• Triallist Adi Yussuf gets away from Josh Baines during Oxford City's win over Didcot Town on Tuesday (Picture by Roger Neal)



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Kitson calls time on his extensive career

OXFORD United striker Dave Kitson has ended his illustrious playing career after announcing his retirement from football earlier this week.

The 34-year-old, who joined the club last summer, has had the final season of his two-year contract ended and left by mutual consent on Monday.

Kitson, who played in the Premier League for Reading and Stoke City, made his last appearance for United in their 1-0 friendly win over Oxford City on July 15.

The former Portsmouth and Sheffield United man scored four goals for the U's last season.

He was absent from United's 1-0 win at Didcot Town last Saturday and head coach Michael Appleton said at the time he had given the 34-year-old the weekend off after a tough week of training.

On Monday, Appleton described Kitson as a "very honest man" who he has "a lot of respect for".

Appleton added: "He came to

By Jack Johnson

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

me on Friday and told me that he would like to retire.

"I asked him to take the weekend to think it over.

"It is a massive decision for any player to have to take and I felt he deserved a little time to weigh it all up.

"He came back to us over the weekend and told us that his mind was made up, and so we respect that decision and wish Dave all the best for the future."

It has been a busy week for United so far with Derek Fazackerley announced as assistant head coach and Mark Thomas as head of performance and recruitment analysis.

Fazackerley, who has worked alongside Kevin Keegan for England and Sven Goran Eriksson at Manchester City, will work with Appleton and first team coach Mickey Lewis.

The 62-year-old said: "It is a really exciting challenge.

"Michael Appleton is a good young manager with great ideas about the game and I would love to help him achieve success at Oxford. The club is set-up well, there are young players coming through and the whole club is progressive and ambitious."

Thomas joins the U's from Portsmouth where he was head of performance analysis.

He will work with video analyst Dan Bond and said: "I enjoyed my time at Portsmouth but having spoken with Michael believe there are exciting times ahead here at Oxford."

United remained unbeaten in pre-season last weekend with a 1-0 win over Division One South & West side Didcot.

James Roberts scored the only goal of the game on 54 minutes.

United's development side face Abingdon Town tonight to help the Abbots raise funds after last winter's floods.

• Dave Kitson (Picture by Steve Daniels)



Sport Bites

Sean in top-10

CHIPPING Norton racer Sean Walkinshaw moved into the top-10 of the EuroFormula Open championship standings after a seventh place finish at Silverstone on Saturday.

He achieved the result in the first race at the Northamptonshire track, with the second ending in disappointment when a crash on lap two cost Walkinshaw potential points.

But he is up to 10th in the championship table with 30 points, and now has a seven-week break before the next round of the season in Belgium on September 6 and 7.

Trip up north

OXFORD Rugby League return to action on Saturday, when they make the trip to play Gateshead Thunder.

It has been a tough season for Oxford, who have won just five of their 15 fixtures this year.

Oxford have faced Gateshead twice already this season, losing them both by scorelines of 47-29 and 36-22 respectively.

Close to win

OXFORDSHIRE CCC came close to victory over Dorset in the Minor Counties Cricket League on Sunday, but ultimately had to settle for a home draw.

A first innings of 262 for Oxfordshire compared to Dorset's 280 was followed by the hosts declaring on 329-8.

They were able to get Dorset to 281-9, but couldn't take the final wicket they needed to secure the victory.

County trio make squad for worlds

OXFORDSHIRE rowing trio Katie Greves, Olivia Carnegie-Brown and Brianna Stubbs have been selected to compete at the Rowing World Championships in Amsterdam next month.

Greves and Carnegie-Brown were both named in a squad of nine for the women's eight.

They are joined by former Oxford University cox Zoe De Toledo, who was a part of the Boat Race squad in 2012.

"We're really excited looking forward," said De Toledo.

"But now we need to get down to business and work as hard as we can between now and Amsterdam."

Stubbs, from Headington, will compete in the lightweight women's quadruple scull.

She won a gold medal at the World Under-23 Championships last year in the lightweight double, and is looking forward to the challenge in Amsterdam.

"I'm really excited and proud to have been selected for my first senior championships," said Stubbs.

"I'm looking forward to stepping on from the performances we've had over the last few weeks at Henley and Lucerne."

The championships get underway on August 24.

Stars get first recruit ahead of new season

CANADIAN ice hockey player Kyle Flemington has been announced as Oxford City Stars' first signing of the summer.

The 22-year-old defender is moving to the UK from Ontario, and will be ready for the Stars when the season gets underway in September.

Flemington has played in and won the Ontario Hockey League, and is looking forward to competing in the National Ice Hockey League 1 over the coming season.

"I came to Oxford because the Stars are an up-and-coming team having won the championship two years in a row," said

Flemington.

"All in all it was very appealing to me and I just can't wait to get on the ice."

Team coach Darren Elliott added: "Kyle's a great team guy. He's got that size and presence on the ice that any team would want."

"He knows the game inside out and it'll be amazing to have somebody like him behind us."

Elliott added that he has been speaking to a number of prospective signings, and will be making further announcements soon.

• Kyle Flemington



Miserable run continues for Wantage



WANTAGE Town's winless run in pre-season continued on Tuesday night with a 1-0 defeat at home to Hellenic Premier Division side Thatcham Town.

Yashwa Romeo scored the only goal of the game on 75 minutes in a game Wantage can take plenty of positives from.

Freds manager Gary Ackling was without Tom Melledeew, Josh Cottrell, Jimmy Deabill and Jon Steedman but his side showed a determination to forget last Saturday's 6-1 defeat to Conference North side Oxford City.

Jake Johns should have given Wantage the lead but missed an open goal after good work from Ben McCready.

However, it was Thatcham who took their chance as an unmarked Romeo headed past

Gareth Tucker with 15 minutes remaining.

Wantage thought they had equalised late on but Matt Pedder, who rounded the keeper and slotted home, was offside from Gavin Kidd's inch-perfect pass.

The Freds are next in action tonight when they face Easington Sports before they make the short trip to Milton United on Saturday.

Wantage then face Abingdon United and Purton before beginning their Division One South & West campaign at home to Taunton Town on August 9.

• Stuart Cattell and Gavin Kidd are beaten by Oxford City's Lewis Wilson during last Saturday's 6-1 defeat (Picture by Mike Allen)

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U'S BOSS TARGETS WINNING IN STYLE

Abingdon United hit four past Farnham in pre-season friendly

ABINGDON United manager Andy Zoldan said he hopes his side can make the most of playing on a decent surface this season.

United have benefited from having Oxford United's women's side based at their Northcourt Road ground over the summer.

Zoldan has already said he thinks the club's facilities are the best in the Hellenic Premier Division and wants his side to play attractive football at home.

"With a surface like we've got it is my intention this season that we get the ball down and play as much as we can and the boys are responding very well to it at the moment," he said.

By Jack Johnson

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United beat Combined Counties League Division One side Farnham Town 4-1 at the Northcourt last Saturday.

Graham Edney, Andy Younie, Nick Thorne and Aaron Andrews were all on the scoresheet but Zoldan wants more of a test against Badshot Lea on Saturday.

"They are in the same league as Farnham so I'm hoping they give us a better test," he said.

"With us having to travel away, I'd like to think they will have their full squad out."

Zoldan welcomes Adam Garner

back to the squad for this weekend but will be without Younie and Anacleto Odhiambo.

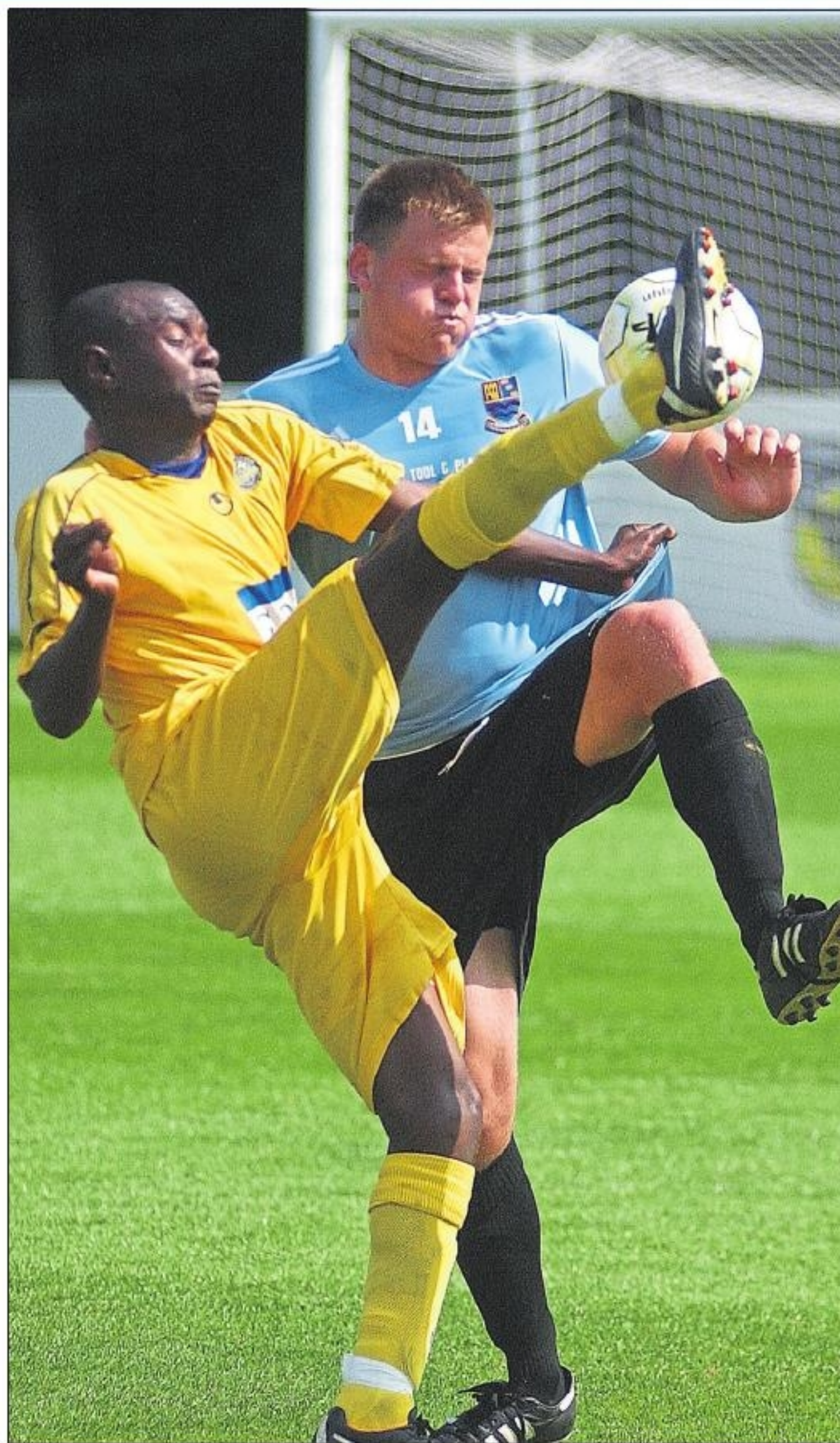
So far United have been unable to consistently field their first team due to players being away, but Zoldan said the majority will be available for the friendly against Division One South & West side Wantage Town on July 31.

"Once again it is just made up of bits and bobs so it won't be until next week against Wantage that I will have the majority of the squad available," he said.

"I'm still unsure with how we are going to go at the start of the season."

"We've still got three games to play but Wantage will be a real test for us because they have made that step up and it will be our toughest game in this pre-season."

Midfielder Josh Cottrell has left the club and joined Wantage, while Zoldan is hopeful of signing a centre-half this evening.



• Anacleto Odhiambo controls a high ball under pressure during Abingdon United's 4-1 win over Farnham Town last Saturday (Picture by Chris Janes)

Abingdon United 4
Farnham Town 1

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